

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-14 and 16 are currently pending in this application. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Additionally, Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's withdrawal of the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claim 34 with regard to copending Application No. 10/286,947.

In view of the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending rejection for the reasons discussed below.

Preliminary Matters

Applicant believes that no extensions of time are required at this time. If extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned for under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). Applicant believes that no further fees for net addition of claims are required at this time. Any fees required for extensions of time and any fees for the net addition of claims are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 23-1951.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-14 and 16 remain rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claim 2-11 of U.S. Patent No. 6,475,984. In response to the Examiner's rejection, Applicant has filed concurrently herewith a Terminal Disclaimer.

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Application No.: 09/711,295
Reply to Final Office Action dated: May 17, 2004

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejection.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submits that all of the stated objections and grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution. Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued for this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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